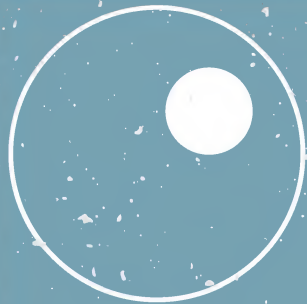


Your vacation hashtag #sucks **4**

Better luck next season, Bears **8**



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Monday
JANUARY 4, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

WINTER MOVIE PREVIEW

Do you wanna build a Batman?

GET READY FOR THIS WINTER'S
FLURRY OF FILMS, INCLUDING
'BATMAN V SUPERMAN'
PAGES 10-12



BY HEATHER SCHROERING FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



EAT

FRASCA PIZZA WEEK

Frasca Pizzeria & Wine Bar 3358 N. Paulina St. 773-248-5222

The Lakeview restaurant celebrates Pizza Week through Saturday with \$13 daily specialty pies. Pair Monday's option—Brussels sprouts, pancetta, onion and mozzarella—with half-priced bottles of wine. 4:30–10 p.m. Reservations recommended.

PIZZA WEEK AT ZOOM

Zoom Pizza Factory 2156 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-857-3979

The recently opened Lincoln Park pizzeria offers samples and introduces new ongoing daily deals during Pizza Week through Saturday, including free delivery on Mondays and \$5 daily specials. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.



DRINK

BRING YOUR OWN VINYL

East Room

2354 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-698-8774

Sip \$2 canned beers, \$3 well drinks and \$5 cocktails while listening to your favorite record. 8 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover.

SALONATHON: THE FUTURE

Beauty Bar

1444 W. Chicago Ave. 312-226-8828

DJ Swaguerrilla plays his last show in residence and welcomes DJ Ariel Zetina to the roster at the West Town bar's weekly dance party with \$5 shot and beer specials. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover.

DO

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Chicago Dramatists 1105 W. Chicago Ave. 312-633-0630

The 29th annual festival, which runs through Jan. 24, gives Chicago high school students a chance to premiere their work in a professional production with the help of directors and actors. 7 p.m. \$18–\$30. Tickets: pegasustheatrechicago.org

3-DAY FORECAST



MONDAY

32°/24°

Baby flakes



TUESDAY

35°/19°

Sun takes over



WEDNESDAY

37°/25°

Clouds again

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY

Wildfire (159 W. Erie St. 312-787-9000) offers half-priced appetizers, such as \$4 bison meatballs and \$5 mushroom pizzas, from 3–6 p.m. and 9–10 p.m.

VAPING!

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This project was made possible by funds received from the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.



Save the date

Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of sports, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3 <i>January</i></p> <p>Turn back to Page 2 for today's Eat, Drink, Do, events.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>SECRETS, LIES AND ALIBIS AT ELBO ROOM 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549</p> <p>The monthly show combines stand-up, sketch and musical comedy based on anonymous secrets from the audience. 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BLOCK PRINTING: VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS AT FASHION DESIGN CENTER 1200 W. 35th St. 312-204-7313</p> <p>Learn carving techniques, how to mix and apply inks, and hand-printing methods for paper as you design your own cards. 6-9 p.m. \$54. Tickets: urbanthreadstudio.org</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>ART & CRAFT SOCIAL AT DERBY BAR & GRILL 1224 W. Webster Ave. 773-248-0900</p> <p>Customize a wooden clock using paint, stain and stencils. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$48.47. Tickets: panache-party.com</p>	<p>9</p> <p>THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AT AUDITORIUM THEATRE OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY 50 E. Congress Parkway 800-982-2787</p> <p>See the world premiere of "Sono's Journey," the story of Japanese-American dancer Sono Osato. \$28-\$68. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: auditoriumtheatre.org</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10TH ANNIVERSARY WINE BASH AT QUARTINO 626 N. State St. 312-698-5000</p> <p>The River North spot celebrates by serving Italian wines, pizza, pasta, salumi and other bites. 5-7 p.m. \$10. Tickets: quartinochicago.com</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>SAN SEBASTIAN PINTXO CRAWL AT CAFE BA-BA-REEBA 2024 N. Halsted St. 773-935-5000</p> <p>Snack on bite-sized appetizers from the Spanish coastal city paired with wine and cocktails. 6-8 p.m. \$35. Reservations required.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>TASTE OF SOUTHPORT & IRVING AT SOUTHPORT & IRVING 4000 N. Southport Ave. 773-857-2890</p> <p>Sample wines from around the world and sample mini versions of dishes from the menu. 7-9 p.m. Phone reservations encouraged by Jan. 11.</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>ALLUVION DANCE CHICAGO BENEFIT AT CURTISS HALL 410 S. Michigan Ave.</p> <p>The bash features a preview of the dance company's April show, live music, Revolution Brewing beer and a silent auction. 6-9 p.m. \$35. alluviondancechi.bpt.me</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>MLK MUSEUM DAY AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS</p> <p>In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., get free admission to Adler Planetarium, Chicago History Museum and more with valid ID that has an Illinois address.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>ADLER AFTER DARK: FIRST CONTACT AT ADLER PLANETARIUM 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive 312-922-7827</p> <p>Learn about the search for new planets and alien civilizations, and watch planetarium shows at the monthly adults-only event. 6-10 p.m. \$20-\$25. Tickets: adlerplanetarium.org</p>	<p>22</p> <p>CHICAGO RESTAURANT WEEK AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS</p> <p>Restaurants across the city craft unique prix-fixe menus for lunch (\$22) and dinner (\$33-\$44) through Feb. 4. Reservations at choosechicago.com</p>	<p>23</p> <p>RIVER NORTH WHISKEY FESTIVAL AT MOE'S CANTINA 155 W. Kinzie St. 312-245-2000</p> <p>Sample 50 varieties of whiskey, bourbon and scotch. Noon-4 p.m. \$50-\$60. Tickets: rivernorthwhiskeyfestival.com</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BUZZED SPELLING BEE AT ELBO ROOM 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549</p> <p>Be one of the first 20 to sign up and compete while sipping \$3 PBR and \$5 PBR with a shot of whiskey. 8 p.m. No cover.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BABES IN TOYLAND AT CONCORD MUSIC HALL 2047 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-570-4000</p> <p>If you didn't get to see them at Riot Fest, here's your chance. 7 p.m. \$25-\$30. Tickets: clubtix.com</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>POLAR BEAR PLUNGE AT OAK STREET BEACH 1000 N. Lake Shore Drive</p> <p>Go for a swim in Lake Michigan and help families in need. Arrive by 11 a.m. Plunge at noon. \$30-\$40. Register at lakeviewpolarbearclub.com</p>

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Escaping reality is just a few weeks away. The excitement is building to exponential heights. You can almost taste the \$7 Tecates on your tongue already.

You've had a countdown on Facebook—publicly as a status update, like an absolute lunatic—every day

for the past five months.

Becca Fieldman posted: "JUST 94 DAYS UNTIL ME & RICK ARE SIPPIN' DRANKZ IN DA CARIBBEAN!"

Thanks for that, by the way. Also, you realize you're 28 years old, right? Did you really put a "Z" at the end of dr... ya know what? Not the point. Moving on.

Yep! You and your boo are headed to Cancun this winter for a seven-day, six-night cruise leaving from the port city of Savannah.

It's all figured out: Three-day road trip to Georgia, stopping at "adorbs" little spots along the way, before parking your Volkswagen Golf and getting on that floating, cigarette-infested Carnival-owned hunk of metal.

Vaycay is here, bitches!

But first?

A vacation hashtag—one you'll use excessively on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for a week and a half without stopping for any reason because you honestly think people are enjoying this "content vomit" of yours—has gotta be determined. I mean, how else would you track all your super dope pics from the trip?

Certainly not just transferring them over to your computer via iCloud or Dropbox later. Nah! They must ALL be posted! Everyone is required to see how happy you are in life! It's a rule! Because without posting 11 photos a day, you're basically saying you're irrelevant.

#BeccaAndRickDoCancun #OurBottles-BePoppinInDaCaribbean #BeccaAndRick-GoSouth #YesBeccaAndRickMexiCAnCun

The realization is simple: No matter what hashtag this duo selects, it's always going to be awful. And no one will care. Ever. And it clearly looks like they're saying, "Look how cool my life is that I'm not sitting in a cubicle and you are."

The problem with this mindset is that not

only do we not care, we actually are starting to debate why we were ever friends with you in the first place. "Hiding" or "unfollowing" you is sounding like a pretty damn good solution right about now.

You're vain, and it's hard to watch.

And also? You're really starting to miss the point of why hashtags were created. It's a space to organize thoughts and imagery for a



The realization is simple: No matter what hashtag this duo selects, it's always going to be awful. And no one will care. Ever.

specific event or campaign. But when only you and your boyfriend are posting to it? It provides no value. You both already know where the photos live anyway!

ON YOUR PHONES.

All it really does is show that you wanted to look cool slapping a long-ass hashtag on your post.

And if that's what you need to do to justify taking a trip to Cancun when pushing 30?

Hey, by all means. But just so you know, we'll all be #unfollowing you in the meantime.

SEAN ELY IS "THE SOCIAL MEDIA PESSIMIST." CHECK OUT HIS ORIGINAL SERIES ON YOUTUBE AT YOUTUBE.COM/SOCIAL-MEDIA-PESSIMIST.



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New state laws in 2016

By Monique Garcia | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Gov. Rauner and lawmakers still haven't agreed on a state budget, but they did come together to approve more than 230 new laws that took effect with the new year. Here's a look at some of the new rules for 2016:

» Police departments are not required to use body cameras, but now there are statewide rules for those that do. Chiefly, officers have to keep their cameras on when conducting law enforcement activities but can turn them off when talking to a confidential informant, or at the request of a victim or witness. Recordings generally are not subject to the state's open records law, however, unless they contain potential evidence in a use-of-force incident, the discharge of a weapon or a death. In addition, the law bans the use of chokeholds, creates a database of officers who have been fired or resigned because of misconduct and requires an independent investigation of all officer-involved deaths.

» It is now a Class A misdemeanor for pet owners to leave animals outside in extremely hot or cold weather.

» Victims of sexual assault have longer to pursue charges against their attackers under a measure that delays the start of the 10-year statute of limitations until after a rape kit is tested.

» Powdered caffeine and powdered alcohol have been added to the list of banned substances in Illinois.

» College students over 18 who have mental health issues are allowed to designate someone who can be alerted about any problems

or changes in behavior.

» Mental health providers are barred from engaging in treatment with the purpose of changing the sexual orientation or gender identification (aka gay conversion therapy) of minors.

» Transgender people are now covered under the state's hate crimes law.

» Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community centers have been added to the list of facilities protected from hate-based institutional vandalism.

» Pumpkin pie is now the official state pie, a nod to Illinois' status as a leading producer of the orange gourd.

» Drivers of nonelectric vehicles caught parking in spots designated for electric vehicles face a \$75 fine.

» People in the country illegally are now able to obtain a license to practice law in Illinois.

» Bobcats are now fair game during a new hunting season that runs from Nov. 1 through Feb. 15.

» Those convicted of making false or prank calls to 911 centers will now be held responsible for reimbursing costs associated with an emergency response.

Illinois considers allowing recall attempts of Chicago mayor

The furor over recent Chicago police shootings has legislators considering whether voters should be allowed to recall Mayor Emanuel or future officials who hold his post.

Under state Rep. La Shawn Ford's proposal, two city aldermen would have to sign an affidavit agreeing with a recall petition and organizers would have to collect more than 88,000 signatures from registered voters in the city, with at least 50 signatures coming from each of 50 wards.

The proposal needs approval from two-thirds of each chamber of the Illinois Legislature to pass during the session that starts this month. Illinois state law currently addresses only the recall of a governor, a provision voters approved in 2010 after former Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested and impeached. AP

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Bears wide receiver Josh Bellamy (second from right) celebrates his touchdown reception with teammates during the second half of Sunday's loss to Detroit. AP PHOTO

LOOKING FORWARD

AS THEIR TEAM FINISHES LAST IN NFC NORTH, BEARS FANS SWITCH FOCUS TO NEXT SEASON

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Call it the Toilet Bowl. Complete with interceptions, missed field goals, penalties and sacks, Sunday's game was a close battle of which team would win the title of crappiest in the NFC North: the Bears or the Detroit Lions.

And that distinction went to the Bears, who finished their season in last place with six wins and 10 losses (one more win than last season) despite a strong second-half comeback after a scoreless first half.

In the end, Robbie Gould's two field goals, Josh Bellamy's touchdown and Matt Forte's touchdown were not enough to keep the Bears from losing 24-20 to the Lions. Of course, Jay Cutler's three interceptions didn't help.

Before the last game of the season, we asked Bears tailgaters who showed up (for a game that mattered probably about as much as a preseason game) to shake off this season and look ahead.

LEONOR VIVANCO IS A REDEYE REPORTER.
LVIVANCO@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM | @LVIVANCO

As a Bears fan, what is your New Year's resolution?

"MY DAD HAS SEASON TICKETS.

I GUESS I SHOULD BADGER HIM MORE FOR HIS TICKETS."

—Maddie Lardner, 22, Homer Glen

"NOT TO BE MAD AT THE 'STAR WARS' LOSERS. ... THEY SHOULD LEAVE THE SOUTH LOT TO TAILGATERS AND NOT FOR THE 'STAR WARS' MUSEUM."

—Steve Reynolds, 39, Arlington Heights

"THIS IS MY FIRST GAME THIS YEAR, SO TO HIT TWO NEXT YEAR. AND GET A BETTER FIELD-GOAL KICKER. I LOVE ROBBIE GOULD, BUT HE'S GETTING UP THERE IN AGE AND MISSED GAME-WINNING FIELD GOALS."

—Nick Rymus, 24, Edgewater

"HOPEFULLY WE'LL MAKE THE PLAYOFFS AND AT LEAST ONE PLAYER WILL MAKE THE PRO BOWL."

—Michael Ayers, 22, Berwyn

What position should the Bears concentrate on fixing in the draft?

"DEFENSIVE [PLAYERS]. DEFENSE WINS GAMES."

—Lardner

"OFFENSIVE LINEMAN TO GIVE CUTLER MORE PASSING TIME. I DON'T LIKE CUTLER, BUT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE OFFENSIVE LINE."

—Alex Juarez, 28, Aurora

"THE BEARS WAS ALWAYS A

DEFENSIVE TEAM, AND NOW THEY'RE NOT. ... LINEBACKER, STRONG SAFETY."

—Rymus

Keep Jay Cutler, yes or no?

"NO, BECAUSE HE SUCKS AND HE'S A BABY."

—Lardner

"KEEP CUTLER. WHO ELSE YOU GONNA FIND TO REPLACE JAY CUTLER?"

—Bill Maloney, 30, Ukrainian Village

"KEEP CUTLER. HE'S A GREAT QUARTERBACK. ALL HE NEEDS IS AN OFFENSIVE LINE."

—Rymus

"WE SHOULD CUT OUR LOSSES AND FIND SOMEBODY ELSE. HE'S A PRO BOWLER BUT HASN'T PLAYED LIKE A PRO BOWLER. ... YOU GIVE HIM ALL THAT MONEY, AND HE STILL DOESN'T PLAY WELL. HIS STATS SUCK, AND HIS ATTITUDE SUCKS FROM WHAT I CAN SEE."

—John Merkel, 29, Oswego

Keep Matt Forte, yes or no?

"FORTE'S AWESOME, BUT [JEREMY] LANGFORD IS A GOOD REPLACEMENT."

—Reynolds

"HE'S GONE. WE GOT AN AWESOME SUBSTITUTE TO MAKE PLAYS. LANGFORD DOES A GOOD JOB AND HE'S YOUNGER."

—Juarez

"HE'S NOT DONE RUNNING. HE'S

#LagunaPicks

All season, Laguna the Shedd Aquarium sea lion has predicted the winner in Bears games. He picked Detroit to win Sunday's matchup, a 24-20 Bears loss, which means he's 9-7 for the season. For more information on Laguna and sea lions, visit sheddaquarium.org.

A GOOD RUNNING BACK, BUT GET MONEY FOR HIM WHILE YOU CAN."

—Merkel

Give John Fox a grade for this season.

"JOHN FOX DID A TREMENDOUS JOB. ROBBIE GOULD MISSED TWO OR THREE GAME-WINNING FIELD GOALS. ... B, BUT WE DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE PLAYOFFS."

—Juarez

"B. ANYTHING IS AN IMPROVEMENT FROM LAST SEASON. FOX HAS A GOOD TRACK RECORD OF TURNING BAD TEAMS AROUND."

—Maloney

"C. HIS PLAY CALLING COULD BE BETTER, MORE AGGRESSIVE. I'M A LOVIE SMITH FAN, AND I WANT HIM BACK."

—Rymus

"GIVEN WHAT HE HAD, HE DID OK. C+ OR B-."

—Ayers



THE QUOTE

"I DON'T KNOW IF I EXPECTED TO BE A CAPTAIN OF AN ALL-STAR TEAM. IT'S PRETTY COOL."

—**Patrick Kane**, after getting word that he was one of four players voted into the 2016 NHL All-Star Game set for Jan. 31 in Nashville, Tenn. He joins the Panthers' Jaromir Jagr, Capitals' Alex Ovechkin and Coyotes' John Scott as the leading vote-getters in their respective divisions. The NHL will select the remaining 40 players for the game, which will feature a three-on-three format; those players will be announced Wednesday.

We'll Swiss you

The Blackhawks have loaned defenseman David Rundblad to the ZSC Lions in Switzerland. The Blackhawks announced the move Sunday. The 25-year-old Rundblad, a native of Lycksele, Sweden, has two assists in nine games with the Blackhawks this season. He has four goals and 21 assists in 113 career NHL games.

THE DIGIT // 3

That's how many games **Derrick Rose** has missed in a row after sitting out Sunday's game. He will undergo an MRI exam on Monday because pain and stiffness in his right hamstring have spread to his surgically repaired knee. Rose has had surgery to repair a torn right meniscus twice, including last season, when he missed 20 games late in the season. Coach Fred Hoiberg said the medical and training staffs don't seem overly concerned by Rose's latest soreness. "It's just hopefully to get an MRI to rule some things out. There is some stiffness and some pain in there. So you have to be careful with it and take a cautious approach," Hoiberg said.



He'll diss shoes

Kanye West has taken on Michael Jordan and Nike in a new song, according to USA Today's FTW. The song, "Facts," includes the repeated line "Yeezy, Yeezy, Yeezy just jumped over Jumpman," referencing the rapper's Yeezy shoe line with Adidas and Jordan's Nike line, represented by the classic "Jumpman" logo. In response, Jordan's son Marcus tweeted, "'Yeezy just jumped over @Jumpman23 ??' LOL I needed a good laugh to start my #2016" and followed up with another tweet featuring a GIF of his dad laughing. We don't think we've heard the end of this.

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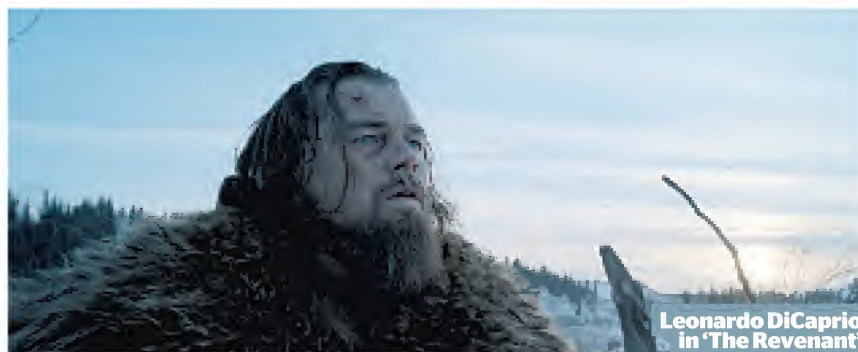
ALL ABOUT AFFLECK

'BATMAN V SUPERMAN' IS THE BIGGEST MOVIE ON TAP BEFORE SUMMER—COULD BEN AFFLECK HAVE STARRED IN THE OTHERS TOO?

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

T HE WAIT IS OVER: It's finally January, your favorite month of the year, when the weather's awesome and the movies coming out are the best and ...

OK, maybe not. But the wait is almost over for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," the superhero smack-down that finally answers the question, "Can Ben Affleck wear a hero costume and do better than 'Daredevil'?" Since many were surprised by the casting of Batfleck, let's look at the notable movies on the way before the summer movie season (which starts in May, aka spring), and if those could have starred Affleck too.



Leonardo DiCaprio in 'The Revenant'

JAN. 8 The Forest

Finally Natalie Dormer ("Game of Thrones," the "Hunger Games" franchise) gets a starring role in this horror flick about a woman looking for her identical twin in the "suicide forest." Taylor Kinney ("Chicago Fire") co-stars, speaking of folks jumping from TV. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** No. This looks like the typical horror movie released in January, and he wouldn't take this kind of project.

The Revenant

Leonardo DiCaprio plays a 19th century traveler who gets attacked by a bear and is eventually left for dead by his men in this very, very violent epic from director Alejandro G. Iñárritu ("Birdman"). **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** Hmm. It might have been interesting to see Affleck try to be slimy in the role played by Tom Hardy, but that casting would have been odd. At least we could have understood what he was saying, though, which is

not the case with Hardy.

Anomalisa

In this fantastic stop-motion-animated drama from writer/co-director Charlie Kaufman ("Being John Malkovich," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"), a customer service expert (voiced by David Thewlis) battles loneliness and temptation while in Cincinnati for one night. We've all been there, right? Loneliness, not Cincinnati. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** No. For good reason, the movie only features three voice actors, and using someone as big and recognizable as Affleck would have been a mistake.

JAN. 15 Ride Along 2

Ken Jeong and Olivia Munn join in for the sequel to the totally average Ice Cube/Kevin Hart hit. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** Not starred, but a cameo wouldn't have been 100 percent out of the question. Guessing that didn't happen.



Superman
looks mad

MARCH 25 Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice

It's right there in the title. Starring Ben Affleck as Batman and returning Henry Cavill to his cape following "Man of Steel," this was partly filmed in the Chicago area. You know you're going to see it.

Could it have starred
Ben Affleck?
Apparently so.

13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi

Remember all the details about this real-life incident in Libya? Me neither. The movie version stars John Krasinski and is directed by, yep, Michael Bay ("Transformers").

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Absolutely. Couldn't you see the brawny Affleck in Krasinski's role? For sure.

the grandson or the grandpa? No way.

The 5th Wave

Hey, it's another movie about an alien attack, this time led by Chloe Grace Moretz and Nick Robinson ("Jurassic World"). Well, the movie's led by them, not the alien attack.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck?

No. He's way too famous to play Moretz's character's dad (Ron Livingston) or the military official (Liev Schreiber).

Co-writer Wayans runs the show in stuff like this.

The Finest Hours

Less than two months after "In the Heart of the Sea," we get another movie based on the true story of a boat in trouble, this time starring Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster and Eric Bana.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck?

In theory, though not in Pine's role, and not sure how well they'd pair together.

FEB. 5 Hail, Caesar!

The Coen brothers ("The Big Lebowski," "Barton Fink") return to movies about movies with this comedy about a kidnapped 1950s movie star (George Clooney). Co-starring Josh Brolin, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Nope, there's no room here with what looks like a ton of perfectly cast roles.

JAN. 29 Fifty Shades of Black

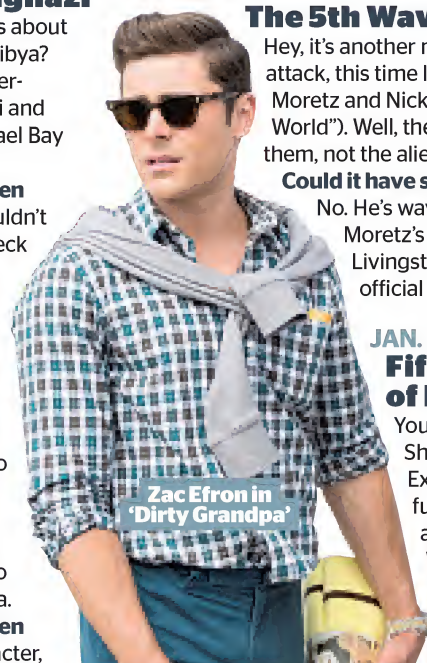
You know, like "Fifty Shades of Grey." Except trying to be funny on purpose and starring Marlon Wayans.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? No.

JAN. 22 Dirty Grandpa

Zac Efron goes from impersonating Robert De Niro in "Neighbors" to starring with him in this mediocre-looking road trip comedy, in which a dude and his grandpa go to spring break in Florida.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? As which character,



'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies'

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Lily James ("Cinderella") stars in the adaptation of Seth Grahame-Smith's book that takes the Jane Austen novel to a much bloodier place.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? No.

This action flick fortunately puts its female stars (including Bella Heathcote) front and center, and the 43-year-old Affleck's too old to play Mr. Darcy (played by Sam Riley, who's in his mid-30s).

The Choice

The inevitable Valentine's-timed Nicholas Sparks adaptation stars Benjamin Walker ("In the Heart of the Sea") and Teresa Palmer ("Warm Bodies") as friends who might want to be more but ahhhhhhhhhh do you think they'll get together?

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Nah, his time to do one of these passed a while ago.

Continued on Page 12 »

movies

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**FEB. 12
Zoolander 2**

Has it really been 15 years since the original? Sheesh. Not only is the existence of a sequel (again starring director Ben Stiller as Derek Zoolander and Owen Wilson as Hansel) surprising but so is the assistance from Penelope Cruz, Benedict Cumberbatch and Justin Bieber. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** No. He can be very funny (see “Extract,” to name just one), but that would have been a questionable fit.

Where to Invade Next

Documentarian Michael Moore travels to Europe to learn about the many things various countries there do well that the U.S. does not. The movie’s very entertaining and very upsetting.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Uh, it’s hard to imagine why Moore, who loves being on camera, would have let Affleck take his place this time.

How to Be Single

Finally, a movie about people looking for love and sex in New York City! Dakota Johnson, Rebel Wilson, Alison Brie and Leslie Mann co-star.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? I think that question answers itself.

**FEB. 26
The Witch**

Word is that this indie horror movie (take a guess what it’s about!) is really freaky.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? No, it’s way too small.

Eddie the Eagle

Ski-jumping gets its biopic in this story about a British athlete (Taron Egerton of “Kingsman: The Secret Service”) and the trainer (Hugh Jackman) trying to get him to the Olympics.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? With some basic ski-jumping research, seems like he definitely could have played the coach. Missed opportunity, Affleck.

Triple 9

Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Anthony Mackie, Aaron Paul, Kate Winslet, Woody Harrelson and Norman Reedus star in this exciting-looking crime thriller from director John Hillcoat (“The Proposition”).

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? No, let Casey have a chance to own it by himself.

Gods of Egypt

Another CGI-heavy round of ancient garbage, this time starring Gerard Butler (“300”), Brenton Thwaites (“The Giver”), Chadwick Boseman (“Get On Up”) and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (“Game of Thrones”).

Could it have starred Ben Affleck?

Fortunately, these days he usually has the good sense not to take projects like this.

**FEB. 12
Deadpool**

Ryan Reynolds (“Green Lantern”) gives snarky superhero-dom another go as the Marvel crime-fighter.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck?

Considering Affleck’s role as Batman and his red suit as Daredevil, him playing the red-suited Deadpool just would have been too much.

Ryan Reynolds in ‘Deadpool’

**MARCH 4
Knight of Cups**

Writer-director Terrence Malick follows the lousy “To the Wonder” with another movie about a dude walking around and figuring out his life and romantic options. Malick is known for leaving stars on the cutting room floor, but based on the trailer the movie stars Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett and Natalie Portman.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Yes, he was in “To the Wonder.”

London Has Fallen

A sequel to “Olympus Has Fallen.” Great. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** No. Again, he and Gerard Butler are not on the same career path.

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot

Chicago Tribune reporter Kim Barker’s memoir about wartime coverage in Afghanistan and Pakistan becomes a movie starring Tina Fey and written by “30 Rock” scribe Robert Carlock. Co-starring Margot Robbie, Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Alfred Molina and Christopher Abbott.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? It wouldn’t have been that shocking if Hollywood had made the main character male, but thankfully that didn’t happen.

**MARCH 11
The Brothers Grimsby**

Star/writer Sacha Baron Cohen (“The Dictator”) plays a goofball searching for his long-lost brother (Mark Strong), who’s an assassin.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Let’s not ask

Affleck to do a British accent, please.

**MARCH 18
Miracles from Heaven**

Jennifer Garner and Queen Latifah star in a faith-based story (from the people behind “Heaven is for Real,” not surprisingly) about a girl whose serious illness appears to be cured by a tragic accident.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? His ex is in it, so yes and no?

Midnight Special

It’s hard to know what to make of this sci-fi thriller from writer-director Jeff Nichols (“Mud,” “Take Shelter”), but I can’t wait to find out what it has up its sleeve. Michael Shannon, Joel Edgerton, Adam Driver and Kirsten Dunst star. **Could it have starred Ben Affleck?** Yeah, he should have gotten involved.

The Divergent Series: Allegiant

The series continues. Not sure what more needs to be said about that.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Definitely! By which I mean no.

**MARCH 25
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2**

This is a sequel to the 2002 movie that I absolutely hated.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? I’m very unhappy that it stars anyone.

**APRIL 1
Collide**

One of those movies in which an innocent dude gets involved

with dangerous people and has to save his lady. Might look awful if not for the presence of Nicholas Hoult, Felicity Jones, Anthony Hopkins and Ben Kingsley.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? If Hopkins turned it down, I guess?

**APRIL 8
The Boss**

The last time Melissa McCarthy collaborated with her husband, Ben Falcone, we got the crappy “Tammy.” Now we get the crappy-looking story of a formerly rich woman (McCarthy) arrested for insider trading and then trying to adjust to living like the rest of us after getting out of jail. Set in Chicago!

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? No, and he should be glad about that.

**APRIL 15
The Jungle Book**

Director Jon Favreau (“Iron Man”) delivers a CGI-enhanced, live-action version of the animated classic about a boy raised by animals. Voice work comes from Scarlett Johansson, Bill Murray, Lupita Nyong’o, Idris Elba, Christopher Walken and more.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Of course, why shouldn’t he get to play too? Unclear who he could have voiced, though.

Barbershop: The Next Cut

The franchise set on Chicago’s South Side returns, now with the barbershop being staffed by both men (Ice Cube, Common) and women (Nicki Minaj, Regina Hall). The trailer suggests that the movie attempts to confront violence in the area.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Duh. No.

Everybody Wants Some

Writer-director Richard Linklater delivers what’s being called a “spiritual sequel” to “Dazed and Confused,” which should be all you need to know. Doesn’t appear the former stars return, however.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Seeing as he was in “Dazed and Confused,” that’s a big yes.

**APRIL 22
The Huntsman: Winter’s War**

If you were hoping there’d be a spinoff of “Snow White and the Huntsman,” giving the titular warrior (Chris Hemsworth) his time to shine, well, good news. Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt and Jessica Chastain co-star.

Could it have starred Ben Affleck? Not sure there’s room on the screen for him and Hemsworth together.

**APRIL 29
Mother’s Day**

Oh, God, one of those movies by Garry Marshall (“New Year’s Eve,” “Valentine’s Day”) in which a ton of people (Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston, Jason Sudeikis, Kate Hudson, Shay Mitchell, many more) star and that involves holiday-based shenanigans.

Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.

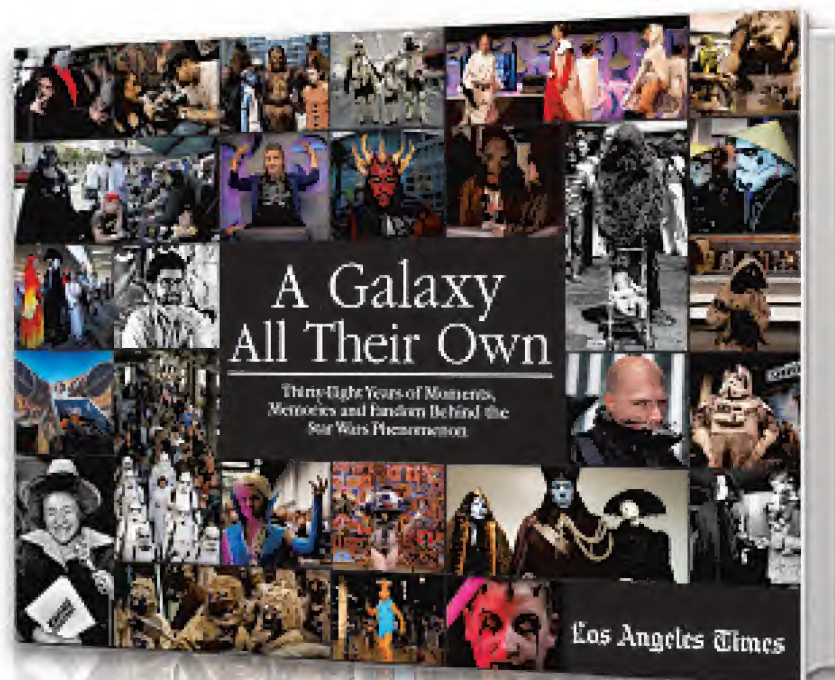
Could it have starred Ben Affleck?

Could it? Yes. Should it? No.

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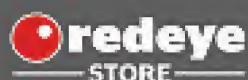
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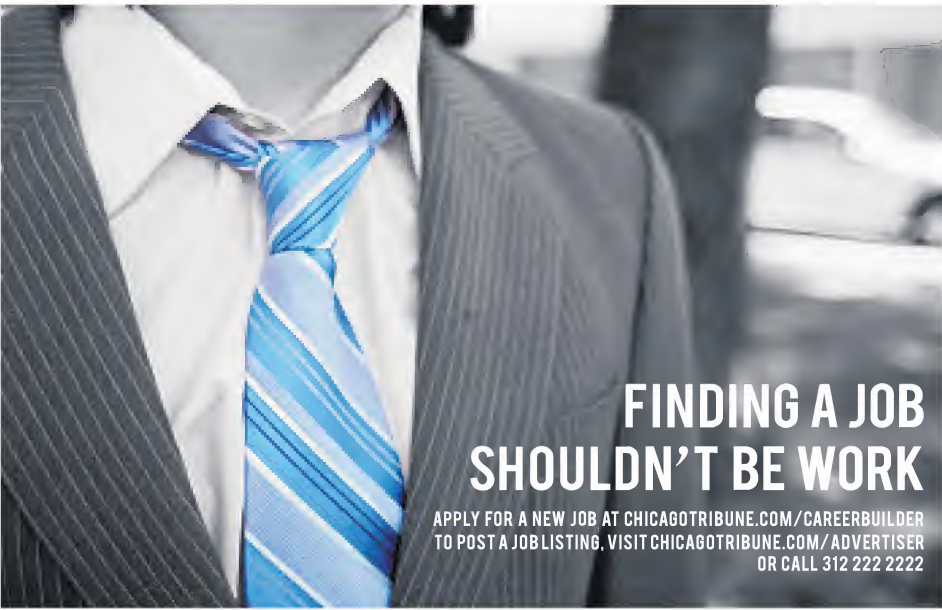


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Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you've been keeping a painful secret about your love life or have unresolved hurts buried inside, this week you'll have an opportunity to face your insecurities. Although it won't be easy, consider talking to a trusted counselor or friend who can help you untangle the knots that prevent you from experiencing true, happy and real love.



Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you and a friend recently decided to explore any mutual chemistry you share, this week you might regret that decision. It's possible that once you went from friends to lovers, you suddenly were no longer feeling it, or that the two of you are just too awkward as a couple. Don't avoid an honest conversation about this. It has to happen.



Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

If you've been offered a major opportunity professionally, you might feel excited about the potential but also torn about how it will affect your personal life. There might be a major trade-off to climbing up that ladder of success. While you'll feel ready for the challenge, your love life might suffer. Are you prepared for that?



Aries March 21-April 19

A disappointing realization that you and your partner don't necessarily share core beliefs and values might nag at you. While you respect your mate's differences, there are certain areas you're not willing to compromise on. This week, it's possible that one of those key hot buttons of yours will be pushed. You'll need to decide whether it's possible to agree to disagree or if it's a dealbreaker.



Taurus April 20-May 20

You'll realize this week that by wanting to see only the best outcome with finances between you and your mate, you've only been avoiding reality. The disenchantment you may feel in knowing that you can't count on your partner for monetary support in the way you'd hoped will only be overshadowed by the disappointment you'll feel in yourself for craving that kind of situation in the first place. Take control of your own destiny—stop waiting for your partner to rescue you.



Gemini May 21-June 20

If you're trying to fool yourself into thinking there isn't something to work out between you and your mate, this week you're in for a sobering reality check. By Friday, it'll be clear that if you two aren't willing to roll up your sleeves and work together to resolve an area of restriction and conflict in your partnership, there might be serious trouble ahead.



Cancer June 21-July 22

An office romance might go from a dream come true to a major problem this week. You might hear disheartening news from your HR department about a policy that prohibits you from dating co-workers. If you are truly in a happy place with your new love, one of you might need to choose between continuing at your current company or leaving your job.



Leo July 23-Aug. 22

Although you might want to avoid a weighty decision concerning your love life, by the end of the week, you'll realize it's just not an option. If you're casually dating someone who you know isn't the right fit, you'll need to be responsible enough to end things before one of you gets hurt. Don't stay with someone just because the alternative would make you lonely. That's not love.



Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

A sense of discontent is possible this week, especially if you and your partner live together or are experiencing a rough patch domestically. You might feel as if your mate isn't being supportive while you're struggling to help out one of your relatives, or you may disagree on a decision that will affect your family. This might be a stalemate. Can you be okay with that?



Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22

A conversation you might have tried hard to avoid with your partner might now be inevitable. Although you'll feel as if you're rehashing the past, realize that it'll be necessary to engage in a dialogue that unsettles whatever you thought was conveniently swept under the rug. The good news is that once you have everything out in the open you can begin resolving the trouble.



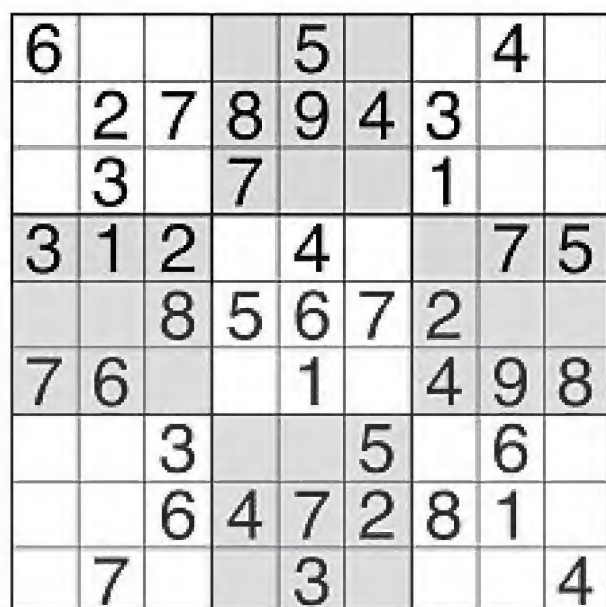
Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you're dating someone and feel as if he or she isn't pulling their share of the weight with discretionary expenses, this week you'll realize that you can't keep shelling out all the dough. Your bank account is suffering, but so is your ego. In fact, you might start to wonder if your love is really all that into you—or if it's more about what you can buy him or her. Ouch!

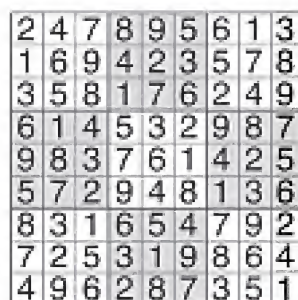


Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If there's one thing you'll be serious about this week, it is love. You'll be forced to wake up and smell the coffee—no matter how bitter it is. Although you might hear nothing but glowing remarks from your family about your lover, you'll know deep inside that they are not seeing the entire picture. You know what's really bothering you about your relationship. Stop ignoring it!



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

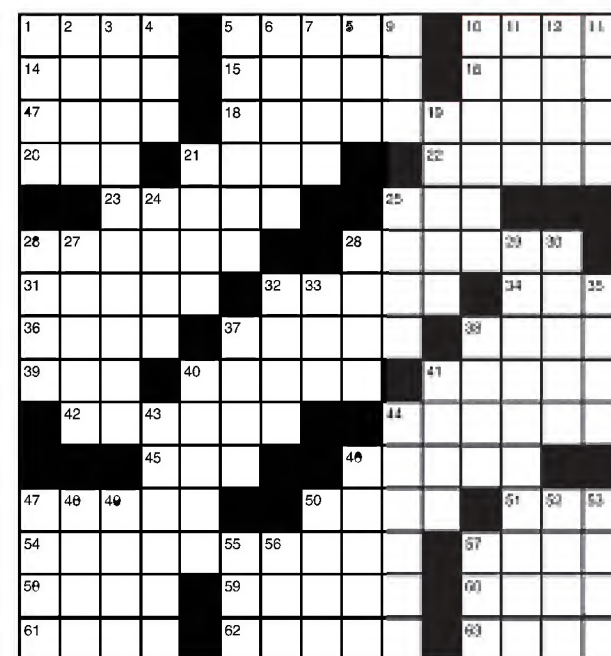


ACROSS

- 1 instant; suddenly
- 5 Furry swimmer
- 10 Read over quickly
- 14 Uncommon
- 15 Author Jules _
- 16 Ice cream scoop holder
- 17 Make booties
- 18 Try the patience of
- 20 Part of the weekend: abbr.
- 21 Ravel at the edges
- 22 Legitimate
- 23 Corridors
- 25 Get-up-and-go
- 26 Obama's 2012 opponent
- 28 Stanzas
- 31 Sports building
- 32 Cereal grain
- 34 Baby bear
- 36 Lions & lynxes
- 37 Necklace bead
- 38 Theater section
- 39 Actor _ Marienthal
- 40 Devoutness
- 41 Andrews and Delany
- 42 Climbed up
- 44 Eva & Zsa Zsa
- 45 Refuse entry to
- 46 Light-refracting crystal
- 47 Not rural
- 50 Mediterranean and Caribbean
- 51 Wedding words
- 54 Said again
- 57 Large flat-bottomed boat
- 58 Actress Storm
- 59 Item on a relish tray
- 60 Overnight dance party
- 61 Antlered animals
- 62 Grows weary
- 63 Snow toy

DOWN

- 1 Annoys
- 2 Grandma
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Butterfly catcher's need
- 5 Excessively
- 6 Neighbor of Oklahoma
- 7 Cafeteria patron's item
- 8 Jr. naval rank
- 9 Agent: abbr.
- 10 Leftover bits
- 11 Scuttle chunk
- 12 "Nay" voter
- 13 Requirement
- 14 Chris of tennis
- 15 Biting insect
- 16 Blyth and Jillian
- 17 Ring out
- 18 Run fast
- 27 Exams given before a panel
- 28 Quite
- 29 Cost-effective
- 30 Tea sweetener
- 32 Garden intruder
- 33 Head topper
- 35 Nickname for Elizabeth
- 37 Landing place
- 38 Workplaces for chemists
- 40 DC-10 or 747
- 41 Speaker's platform
- 43 Diminishes
- 44 A, B, C, D & E
- 46 Irritate
- 47 Encourage
- 48 Genuine
- 49 Cheat: defraud
- 50 Mix in a bowl
- 52 Bird of peace
- 53 Was in the red
- 55 Deteriorate
- 56 Actress Lorber
- 57 Yrlik section



curiosity.com
A REDEYE EDITORIAL PARTNER

BRAIN CANDY

- » The Leidenfrost effect can cause water to flow uphill.
- » The first humans to populate the Americas crossed the Bering Strait around 15,000 years ago.
- » There are currently about 130 frozen bodies in the Cryonics Institute.
- » Ancient Greeks were known to kiss underneath the mistletoe during festivals because of its association with fertility.

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red hot



ACA-NO [BLEEP]?

"Pitch Perfect" stars Anna Camp and Skylar Astin are engaged. The couple announced the news Saturday on Instagram, according to people.com. The two have been dating since 2013. Do you think the Barden Bellas will sing at their wedding? We hope so.



THE QUOTE

"I'm a raging narcissist, so it was very natural."

— **Matt Damon**, following a screening of "The Martian" on Saturday at the Palm Springs International Film Festival, about acting in a film without a scene partner.

THE DIGIT

\$88.3M

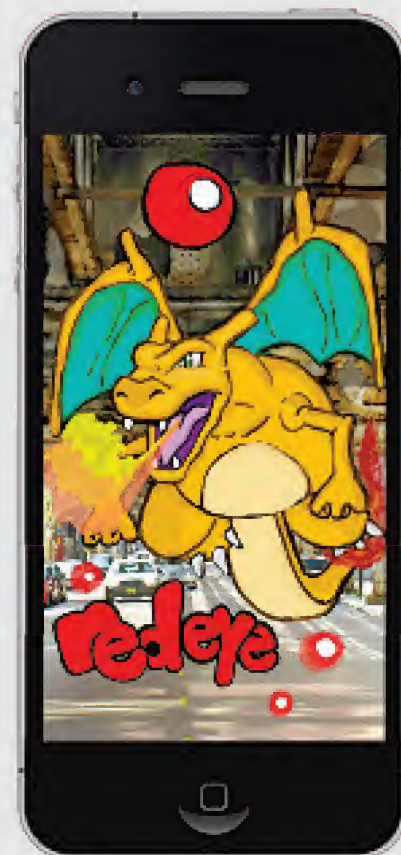
That's how much money "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" nabbed at the box office over the New Year's weekend. According to variety.com, that puts its domestic box office total at \$740.4 million. It's on track to beat "Avatar," which earned \$760.5 million during its domestic run, as the highest-grossing film in history.



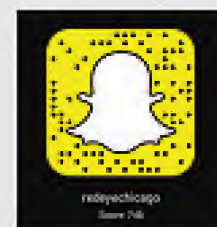
Megan Mullally, Casey Wilson, Eliza Coupe and Damon Wayans Jr. in 'Happy Endings'

Holy [bleeping] [bleep]

"Happy Endings" is on Hulu. We repeat: "Happy Endings" is on Hulu. The ABC cult comedy's 57 episodes are all on the streaming service, according to vulture.com. The Chicago-set show was canceled after three short seasons. WE'RE SO EXCITED. Now, pick it up for more seasons, Hulu.



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